



Press Release

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Pennsylvania's July 1, 2003 Crop Forecast

HARRISBURG — Based on July 1, 2003 forecast for yield and production, the **Keystone** state's farmers expect to produce more oats and peaches this year, while production of wheat and barley is expected to decline.

Pennsylvania's year 2003 planted potato acreage is estimated at 14,500 acres. The harvested potato acreage is estimated at 14,000 acres, the harvested acreage is estimated to be the same as last year.

Oats acreage for harvest, at 115,000, is unchanged from last year's harvested acres. The July 1, 2003, oats yield forecast is set at 67 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above 2002. The resulting oats production of 7.71 million bushels will be up 10 percent from last year. Winter wheat acres to be harvested will total 160,000, down 25,000 acres from last year. The July 1, 2003, winter wheat yield forecast is set at 50.0 bushels per acre, which is down 3.0 bushel from the June 1 projected yield and down 4.0 bushels from last year's 54.0 bushels. The resulting winter wheat production of 8.00 million bushels will be down 20 percent from last year's production of 9.99 million bushels. Barley acreage for harvest, at 65,000, is up 5,000 acres from 2002. Barley yield is expected to be 64 bushels per acre this year from 65,000 acres for an expected production of 4.16 million bushels, which is down 6 percent from last year's production.

Based on July 1 conditions, the state's peach production is forecast at 70.0 million pounds, up 17 percent from last year's production.

At the **United States'** level, oats production is forecast at 148 million bushels, 24 percent above last year's 119 million bushels. The expected yield per acre for oats is forecast at 64.7 bushels, up 7.9 bushels from 2002. Oats harvested acres is estimated at 2.29 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.72 billion bushels. This is up 6 percent from last month and 50 percent above 2002. Harvested winter wheat acreage is estimated at 36.5 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast and up 23 percent from 2002. The U.S. yield is forecast at 47.0 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from last month. Barley production for 2003 is forecast at 292 million bushels, 29 percent above 2002. Based on July 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest an average of 59.5 bushels per acre, up 4.6 bushel from last year. Area harvested, at 4.90 million, is up 764,000 acres from 2002.

For the **United States**, fall potatoes are planted on 1.11 million acres this year, down 3 percent from last year, but 2 percent above two years ago. Harvest is expected from 1.09 million acres, down 2 percent from a year ago but 2 percent above 2001.

Peach production is estimated at 2.62 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2002, and 8 percent above two years ago.